GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1684
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2016
Burning of Paddy Straw
Birla Shri Om

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the burning of paddy straws in States like Punjab, Haryana have an impact on pollution in other States like Rajasthan, NCT of Delhi among others;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) the steps taken by the Central Pollution Control Board and the National Green Tribunal to curb the pollution caused by burning of paddy straws; and
(d) whether there are punishments or fines for burning straws in the country and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)
(a) & (b) Burning of paddy straw / agriculture waste impacts air quality in the vicinity, be it city, town or village. However, movement of plume of fine particles or various gaseous pollutants from agriculture waste burning depends upon meteorological factors such as, wind speed, wind direction, mixing height, humidity, etc. There is no conclusive study available that burning of paddy straw / crop residue in the States like Punjab and Haryana would always impact quality of air in the States/UT like Rajasthan, Delhi etc.
(c) Steps taken to curb the the pollution caused by burning of paddy straw include:
(i) Direction by Hon''ble National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi to Governments of National Capital Territory of Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh to prevent stubble burning which is a banned activity.
(ii) Writing to State/UT Governments by Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) to issue advisory in multimedia mode for curbing stubble burning in northern States of India.
(iii) Organising workshop by MoEF&CC/Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in collaboration with Punjab Pollution Control Board and Government of Punjab on 'Agriculture Stubble Burning − Issues & Options' on 8th January 2015 at Chandigarh and circulating recommendations to States concerned.
(iv) Subsidizing farmers @ 50% of the cost of agriculture machineries such as Gyrorake, Baler, Chopper Shredder, Rotavator, Happy Seeder, Zero Till Drill etc. during the year 2013-14 and 2014-15 in Punjab.
(v) Issuing Notifications under Section 19 (5) of the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 by Government of Punjab, Govt. of Haryana and Government of Rajasthan prohibiting or restricting the open burning of straw.
(vi) Issuing directions under Section 18 (1) (b) of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 by CPCB to the State Pollution Control Boards/Pollution Control Committees of Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana and Delhi for abatement of air pollution and improvement of ambient air quality in Delhi and National Capital Region (NCR) including directions for ensuring strict enforcement of ban on burning of agricultural waste and crop residue.
(vii) Conducting regular co-ordination meetings at official and ministerial level with Government of NCT of Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.
Government of Punjab has reported, based on remote sensing studies, a 38.93% reduction in the paddy residue burning in the year 2015. Punjab Government is using 19% of paddy straw for energy production. 7 bio-mass based power plants have been set up and 5 bio-refineries are using paddy straw as feedstock in Punjab. Government of Haryana has reported a decrease in paddy straw burning during 2014-15 from 20.3% to 17.0% as compared with data of 2013-14.
(d) The violation of afore-said directions issued by CPCB under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 shall be punishable under the said Act with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three months or with fine which may extend to ten thousand rupees or both and in case of continuing contraventions, with an additional fine which may extend to five thousand rupees for every day during such contravention continues after conviction for the first such contravention. Hon'ble National Green Tribunal has also ordered fine of ?2,500 to ?15,000 on farmers indulged in straw burning.

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